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NSC BRIEFING

14 October 1954

OFFSHORE ISLANDS

I. Communist shelling of Quemoy has continued during the past week at reduced rate (less than 100 rounds per day). Most of this fire on Little Quemoy, where civilians now have serious problem.

- A. Between 400 and 600 homes there destroyed, population using caves for shelter.
- B. Several Communist landing exercises reported in Amoy area--may be either rehearsal or show of strength.
- C. Unconfirmed Nationalist reports say Communists "urgently" improving road from Shihshih to Weitou, only eight miles from favorable landing beach on Big Quemoy.
- D. According to Peiping radio, Fukien garrison has told troops they "expected to inflict greater blows" on Nationalist forces, "strive for greater victories."

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- E. [REDACTED] the two jet fighter units nearest the Quemoy at Hanchang and Canton, are getting advanced training.

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II. Nationalists at Quemoy have not attacked mainland targets since 28 September.

- A. Taipei press claims suspension of bombing due to US advice; gives Communists a new "Yalu sanctuary" in Fukien, serves to "reneutralize" Formosa.
- B. Such public statements could lead Peiping to attack islands in belief US anxious to avoid hostilities.
- C. Danger of this could increase if Communists were to observe reduction of US forces in area.

III. In Tachen area, Communists continue air patrols: artillery has again fired on Nationalist Ichiang Island.

- A. Still no signs that Communist invasion troops assembling, although could be done with little warning.
- B. [REDACTED] large Communist air base--under construction at Chuhsien, 225 miles southwest of Shanghai--will be completed in mid-November; jets based here would increase air threat to Tachens, be within range of all offshore islands, Formosa.

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